

John R Stockwell and the CIA (PART III) (1979) - 04 of 13

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▣ Alternative Views

48. (C) JOHN STOCKWELL AND THE CIA (PART III)

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John R. Stockwell introduces the documentary made about him by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Saul Landau. The movie has been shown in several film festivals around the world and on TV in many countries; but the U.S. networks, including PBS, refused to show it. Consequently, our showing provides its American premiere. Next, we look at segments of three weeks' coverage by the TV networks of the situation concerning the Russian troops in Cuba, interspersed with John's comments. Finally, John gives his evaluation of Cuba, having recently visited there three times, and his arguments against the CIA. The program was designated "tonight's highlight" by the Austin American-Statesman and evoked much discussion.

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Recorded October, 1979

This movie is part of the collection: Alternative Views

Producer: Frank Morrow

Production Company: Alternative Information Network

Audio/Visual: sound, color

Language: English

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[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw)

oh yeah now you try this is about 90 pound it's a highly competitive business and you're working under stress you go to the same cocktail parties that the State Department officers go to and then a dinner party after the cocktail party but in between you go meet an agent and you pay him off and you get a receipt and you rush up to the embassy and stow the stuff so it won't fall out of your pocket at the dinner party or something and then you go to the dinner party and then after the dinner party you go run another errand and this goes on day in and day out Saturday Sunday's holidays and when you begin to see that the organization as a whole is very sloppy and poorly run and the standards are very low you're it's hard to stay motivated it's hard to

keep thinking it's worth five and you really get to a state where you just just really don't want to have to lock everything about your professional life and a safe and lie to all of the people you know about who you really are and what you're really doing and what your real dreams and aspirations and promotions are and

[00:02:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw&t=121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw&t=121s)

and aspirations and promotions are and be able to complain to them about your failures or our problems well I realize now that the business of the CIA is to go out and to corrupt individuals in there in place in their own countries and that this is something that corrupts oneself this was going against his upbringing which was a strong Christian very moral background and he was coming into conflict with himself hating himself angry with himself you know i would like to present myself as a man of intense principal who saw bad things and immediately resigned in disgust but my career was obviously going quite well i had the prestige of people coming to me for jobs coming to me for advice inviting me to lunch she wanting to play tennis with me this is you know obviously a human satisfaction I was not yet in top management I couldn't really give away a lot of jobs but I could speak on the behalf of someone my income was about 33 thousand dollars a year and ten years I could retire on a twenty one thousand dollar a year pension for the rest of my life I had total security was it the thought that you would be continuing to do things like the Vietnam involved with mango and the angle and involvement the you thought was immoral or counterproductive at least well what I tried to do was to psych myself into going back to Africa as a chief of station in some place like cartoon for example which would have been a nice post for my grade and just not push covert operations very much if something came along it was just sort of irresistible some agent that just had to be recruited will let an officer in my station recruiting but basically just

[00:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw&t=240s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw&t=240s)

station recruiting but basically just play a lot of tennis and let the paychecks come in this is traditionally what burned out senior case officers do and I'm muddled and waffled and vacillated and rationalized for about eight months before I could tear myself away I I don't really look at it as taking that much guts to quit I just sort of didn't have any choice by November and December I had intense pains in my abdomen which were obviously the precursors of a stomach ulcer from the internal conflict of wanting to hang on to this career but not respecting it I had requested many times that Bob just drop out of the CIA just get out and start life in you someplace he wasn't able to do so when I asked him to but now he has he seen even more since our divorce and yes I do feel vindicated when a man comes back and says he were right all along everything you ever said was right everything you ever said about everybody who walked into our house that's right what lesson did you learn from your dad's experience well of course brings up values just all over the place and that that any I could go if you could rank up on that a whole lot but you on listening to him right now I'm ready is it yeah what's your reaction to see I you know I think up high they're slobs and then you're down on the lower when you get down into the people actually out in the field and they would do the working you know thanks me a very inefficient crooked really sloppy organization I was not a man at peace with himself and since I resigned I do not feel in a position of conflict I feel in a position of being a peace with myself Moreland for our news coverage tonight we're going to show you some clippings taken from the network television news of the quote discovery of the Russian troops in Cuba and we will show you the way that the television network news handled covered and interpreted this event and the political ramifications and how they were covered then we will discuss with John if indeed the full story was told on network news of the Cuban Russian relationship and we will also see what distortions that were in the television coverage and we'll let John comment and give another interpretation of the political implications of this so-called event liba is obstructing the Senate's work on salt the budget and military planning as a result the administration is negotiating with both the USSR and the US Senate according to congressional sources both negotiations are serious with Soviet ambassador Dobrynin and with

[00:08:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw&t=482s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4UqVrSnuKw&t=482s)

with Soviet ambassador Dobrynin and with Senate leaders serious and intricate politics on Cuba are more murky in the Senate than in the Kremlin the administration must strike one deal with the Soviet Union but many deals here with Sam Nunn demanding a five percent increase in US military spending before he will vote for so too but Cuba has frozen salt to the administration must negotiate with Frank church who says no salt until all the Soviet combat troops leave Cuba Carter can make no deal with the Soviet Union about the troops without dealing with powerful scoop Jackson who wants troops and jets and submarines out before he'll consider salt and he won't even do that without a five percent military budget increase that brings Carter into entirely new negotiations with Budget Chairman muskie who opposes any major spending increase and according to the White House press secretary decisions were made about how to deal with the problem posed by those Soviet combat forces in Cuba there was no further public comment on the nature of those decisions however here is a report from our White House correspondent Sam Donaldson President Carter may decide to counter the Soviet combat presence in Cuba by stepping up an American military presence both in the Caribbean and elsewhere in the world unless of course the Soviets take steps on their own to change the status quo as the president has demanded no one here will confirm that such a decision is in the works but the president's own words on the subject ten days ago point to such an approach we do have the right to insist that the Soviet Union respect our interest and our concerns if the Soviet Union expects us to respect their sensibilities and their concerns otherwise relations between our two countries will inevitably be adversely affected what the president was clearly saying was that if the Russians don't change the status quo by taking action themselves the United States will change it

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